

The Daily Gazetteer.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8 1737.

No. 609.



It is surprizing, the Clamour that is raised against the Bill for restraining the Licentiousness of the Stage; when there is not one sober, impartial Man, but must see and acknowledge, that the Personal Abuse of Majesty itself, as well as the encouraging and promoting all manner of

Vice and Immorality, is carried to such a Length, that if some speedy and effectual Stop be not put to such daring Licentiousness, we can expect nothing less, than to fall a Sacrifice to those, who lie in wait to destroy us.

It would be in vain to go about to conceal the almost irreparable Mischief this Licentiousness in Writing alone, has been the Occasion of; and should the same Licentiousness be suffered to be brought into common Practice upon the Stage, it is not only true, that the most upright and able Administration can never support itself; but it is equally certain and true, That the best Government, and the honestest and the wisest Prince, that ever filled a Throne, must be reduced to the most imminent Danger; and it is well, if the most fatal Consequences do not follow from it.

It is therefore become absolutely necessary for the Legislature to interpose, and not to suffer the same Licentiousness to be practised on the Stage, as is in weekly and almost daily Libels.

THE most sacred Persons and Things may be represented, even by writing, in so ridiculous a Dress, as to create a very great Contempt and Prejudice in the Minds of the People; but when the same Persons and Things are ridiculed and reviled on the Stage, the ridiculous Representation of them is so much the more lively and strong, that it cannot fail, in a short course of Time, utterly to deface and root out of the Minds of Men all manner of Regard and Respect for those Persons and Things.

THIS is so self-evident, that it must be the greatest Stupidity or Impudence in any Man, to put the Licentiousness of the Press and the Stage upon the same foot; as if there were the same Reason to restrain the one, as the other; or, as if the Licentiousness of the Press could possibly be attended with the same fatal Consequences, as the Licentiousness of the Stage.

HAVING premised this in the general, let us examine a little more particularly what is advanced by the Writer of the last Craftsman on this Subject.

THE chief Reason (says he) given for a Law for restraining the Liberty of the Stage, is the present Licentiousness of the Stage, and the Immorality of the People, which is imputed to it.

HE goes on. 'Now supposing the Fact to be true, I can see no Reason for any particular Interposition of the Legislature upon this account; all dramatick Writers and Players being already under the Cognizance of the Law, when they transgress their Bounds, and subject to Prosecution like other Libellers or immoral Persons.'

IT is very true; 'all dramatick Writers and Players are subject to the same Prosecution as other Libellers.' But how fallaciously is this urged? He would insinuate to his Readers, what he cannot but know to be utterly false and impossible in Fact; that Players and Libellers, because they are under the Cognizance of the Law, and subject to Prosecution, may, for that Reason, be restrained from transgressing their Bounds; or in other Words, That Libelling, whether by writing, or acting on the Stage, may be prevented by Prosecutions at Law.

HAVE we not seen Prosecutions at Law brought against Libellers in writing; and is not Libelling in that Way practised, at this Time, if it be possible, in ten Times a greater Degree than ever? And is not this a demonstrative Proof, that it is impossible to put a Stop to this Evil by any Prosecutions at Law? And I defy this Writer to shew, that all Prosecutions at Law against Libelling on the Stage, will not be evaded by the very same Arts. And can he see no Reason then for any particular Interposition of the Legislature upon this Account?

BUT the Case (says he, speaking of the Reason

given for restraining the Licentiousness of the Stage) is directly the Reverse; for the Immorality of the People is so far from being owing to the Licentiousness of the Stage, that the Licentiousness of the Stage is immediately owing to the Immorality of the People.

THIS, I confess, is a pretty jingle of Words; but does not in the least overthrow the Reason given for restraining the Licentiousness of the Stage; that it is one Cause of the Immorality of the People; or, that the Licentiousness of the Stage has a very powerful Influence to encrease the Immorality of the People.

WHO was ever so absurd, as he would insinuate, as to assert, that the Immorality of the People was wholly or immediately owing to the Licentiousness of the Stage? No, all that is contended for is, that the People are made much more immoral, and that Immorality spreads itself much wider, by reason of the Licentiousness of the Stage.

THE Licentiousness of the Stage is undoubtedly 'owing to the Immorality of the People.' But to argue from thence, 'That the Immorality of the People is not in a great Degree owing to the Licentiousness of the Stage;' is egregiously stupid or trifling. The People might, and most certainly would be immoral, were the Stage utterly abolished; but by the Licentiousness of the Stage, they are made much more immoral, than they would be if no Players were allowed.

THIS Writer considers, in the next Place, the Effect which a Law for laying a Restraint on the Licentiousness of the Stage, must have upon Liberty in general.

THE Bounds, says he, of Liberty and Licentiousness are so extremely nice, that it is very difficult to distinguish exactly between them: But it is certain, that there can be no Liberty, where there is no Room for extending it too far.

IS this were apply'd to the Liberty of the Press only, I acknowledge it to be very true. You must allow an absolute uncontrollable Liberty of Writing, or all Liberty of Writing must be annull'd and taken away. There is no possible Medium.

IS a Liberty of Writing against a bad Prince, or a bad Administration be allow'd of, the same Liberty must, of Necessity, be allow'd against the best Administration, and the best of Princes. And the Reason is very plain; because, if a good Prince, and a good Administration, will make themselves the absolute Judges of what is fit and proper to be publish'd in Writing, the worst of Princes, or Administrations, have the same Right of exercising the same Privilege or Power; and, consequently, the Liberty of Writing must be wholly taken away.

BUT, for Goodness sake, what has this to do with the Licentiousness of the Stage? Or does it follow, That 'Because there can be no Liberty, where there is no Room left for extending it too far;' therefore there can be no Liberty, where there is not Room left of extending it to the Overthrow of all good Government, as well as bad.

IS it not excellent Reasoning, That because some Room ought to be left of extending Liberty too far, in one Instance; therefore all the Room ought to be left, and in all Instances, that the most inveterate and determin'd Enemies to the Government can contrive and invent?

IS it impossible, that Licentiousness should be carry'd to such a Height, and in so many Instances, as to make it absolutely necessary to restrain, and put a Stop to it in some Instances? Or, because Licentiousness ought to be suffered, or conniv'd at, in some Instances, ought it therefore to be tolerated in every Instance, that any Man can devise? Surely, no Man in his Senses can assert this.

AND yet, as absurd and monstrous as this is, this is the Scheme this Writer builds upon. In his Way of Reasoning, if the Liberty of the Press ought to be allowed, so likewise ought the Liberty of the Stage. Or, if you put the Liberty of the Stage under any Restraint, therefore it is equally justifiable to subject the Liberty of the Press to the same Restraint; tho' there is not the least Connexion between, or any just Consequence that can be drawn, from allowing the Liberty of the Press, to allowing the Liberty of the Stage.

THE Truth is, In whatever Instances Liberty be allowed, no Restraint ought or can be laid on that Liberty without destroying it.

IF the Liberty of the Press has, in the worst and most dangerous Times, been found sufficient to make the People, in general, sensible of the Evils that threaten'd them, and to excite them to unite as one Man to defend and protect their Liberties: What possible Reason can be assign'd, or imagin'd, that the same Liberty should not be sufficient at all Times, to protect them from the like Dangers?

IF, because Licentiousness in Writing ought to be suffered, therefore Licentiousness in all other Instances has an equal Right to be tolerated, no Government can support itself. There must be a Power in the Legislature to determine in what Instances Licentiousness shall be suffered; or the certain Consequence will be Anarchy and Confusion.

HAD those who oppose the Men in Power, turned their Ridicule against Things alone, and not against Persons: Had they only ridiculed or exposed Male-Administration, I need not tell this Writer, that there had been no Occasion for the Legislature to interpose in restraining the Licentiousness of the Stage.

HOWEVER, I cannot blame him for being under a Panic, lest Modern Patriotism should be turn'd into Ridicule on the Stage. But as to this too he may make himself perfectly easy: For to speak the Truth, the Patriotism of these Days is so exceedingly ridiculous in itself, that it is below all Ridicule.

FOR can any Thing be more ridiculous, than to hear Men declaiming against the Power of the Crown, for no other Reason but because they are not employ'd by the Crown?

THIS is the Whole of Modern Patriotism. And could any Thing make it more ridiculous, it must be to hear a celebrated Writer and Patriot bewailing himself and his Country; 'That by the present Bill for restraining the Licentiousness of the Stage, all the Indulgence will be shewn to One Side, and none to the Other: That Players will be licens'd to flatter the Men in Power, and to laugh at those who oppose them: And, That Patriotism, — Poor expiring Patriotism! — will be turn'd into Ridicule.'

COUNTRY NEWS.

Weymouth, June 4. Yesterday was seized and brought into this Port, by the Walker Sloop in the Service of the Customs here, a small Vessel about Twenty-five Tons, laden with Woollen Yarn and raw combed Wooll. The said Vessel and Crew belongs to the Kingdom of Ireland.

FOREIGN PORTS.

Lisbon, May 27. N.S. On the 15th, Arrived the Theophilus, Goddard, from Venice. On the 16th, The Speedwell, Eaves, from Lghorn. On the 17th, The Society, Redwood, from Trani; the Hydra, Sherwill, from Genoa. On the 19th, The Happy Janner, Macklish, from Venice. On the 21st, The Tower Galley, Wingfield, and the Albany, Ward, both from London; the Catherine, Connor, from Cork; the Lymington, Prescott, from Swanzy. On the 23d, The St. George, Roberts, from London; the John and Mary, Wills, from Topsham; the Clementine, Miller, from London; the Ann, Barrott, from St. Sebastian's; the Gould, Tickner, from Carolina; the Three Brothers, Fea, from Newcastle; the Periwagon, Reynolds, from Lynn. On the 24th, The Patrick and Thomas, Sinnor, from Dublin; the Prince Frederick Packer, Lovell, from Falmouth; the Milford Factor, Stokes, from Dublin; the Amelia, Smith, from London. On the 26th, The Polly, Dunning, from London, bound for Guinea. On the 12th Sailed, The Susanna, Bowen, for Cork; the Brumley, Smithurst, and the Santa Thereza, Blewitt, both for Newfoundland. On the 13th, The Unity, Thompson, for Cork; the John and Ann, Cooke, for Newfoundland. On the 14th, The Endeavour, Dickie, for Oporto; the Betty, Jones, for London; the Prudent Sarah, Leate, for New England; the Thomas and Mary, Thompson, for Lghorn. On the 15th, The Richard

chard and Thomas, Fetherston, for Figueira; the King of Portugal, Hughes, for London; the Helen, Joad, for Oporto; the Jane, Jones, for Bayonne; the Salisbury, Smith, for London. On the 19th, The King George Packet, Pellet, for Falmouth. On the 20th, The George, Fendall, for America; the Mary Ann, Guitton, for the Straights; the Tryal, Rouse, for Londonderry; the Richard and Barbara, Christma's, for Yarmouth; the Flavell, Spence, for Topsham; the Catherine and Ann, Dale, for St. Ubes. On the 21st, The Charming Betty, Broad, for Dover; the Jenny, Pitts, for Virginia; the Deborah, Hallup, for London; the Godfrey, Melvill, for Venice. On the 22d, The Endeavour, Painter, for Figueira; the Matilda, Hanway, for London. On the 23d, The Grosvenor, Salisbury, for St. Ubes; the Thomas and Elizabeth, Brecon, for Bristol. On the 24th, The Carew, Bailey, for New-England.

HOME PORTS.

Dublin, May 27. On the 22d Arrived, The Richard and Mary, St. Leger: And on the 24th, the William, Pearle, both from Bourdeaux. On the 21st Sailed, the Samuel, Story, for Rochfort; the Dublin Merchant, Corbett, for Drontheim. On the 22d, the Two Friends, Phelan, for Cadiz; the Ann and Betty, Pagett, for Riga. On the 23d, the Walpole, Gooding, for Boston. On the 24th, the William and Mary, Ford, for Bourdeaux; the Friendship, Forrestal, for Cadiz. On the 27th, the Michael and Clare, Sweetman, for the Straights; the St. Nicholas, Flemming, for Petersburg.

Deal, June 6. Wind N. by E. Remains the Neptune, Godlee, from Trapani; the India Merchant, Barlow, from Smyrna; the Gallipoly, Ayres, and the Prince William, Hoyle, both from Gallipoly, for Orders; the Success, Orme; the Charming Nancy, Curling, both for Cadiz; the Pain, for ——. Came down and Sailed thro' the Speedwell, Rogers, from Carthage.

Gravesend, June 6. Passed by, The Minerva, Nicholson, from Carolina; the Daniel and John, Robinson, from Guernsey; and the Elizabeth and Mary, Rowell, from Riga.

L O N D O N.

On Monday last Henry Parsons, Esq; was elected an Alderman of the Corporation of Maldon, vacant by the Death of Thomas Brampton of Waterhouse, Esq;

Yesterday their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales went to Kew, where they intend to stay till Friday next.

The same Day his Grace the Duke of Hamilton was married to Miss Catherine Barker, a Beautiful young Lady, with a Fortune of 70,000 l.

Last Monday Night the Corpse of Mrs. Ivy, Wife to Counsellor Ivy, was interred in St. Clement's Church.

After the Burial was over, Thomas Balle, Esq; Member of Parliament for the City of Exeter, who was one of the Supporters of the Pall, and was coming into the Church-yard to go home in a Coach, a Street Robber snatch'd his Sword from his Side, which he instantly mist, and seeing the Rogue with it in his Hand, the Gentleman followed hard after him; but there being several Turnings, and it being dark, the Thief got clear off.

On Sunday last died at his House at East Sheen in Surrey, Daniel Simpson, Esq; a Gentleman of an Estate of 4000 l. per Annum.

On Sunday last died in Essex, Simon Whitworth, Esq; a Gentleman of an Estate of 2000 l. per Annum.

Sittings appointed in the Court of Common Pleas before the Lord Chief Justice Willes, in and after Trinity Term, viz.

Middlesex.	June	London.	June
Tuesday,	14	Thursday,	16
Friday,	17	Saturday,	18
Wednesday,	22	Thursday,	23
After Term.		After Term.	
Thursday,	30	Friday,	July 1

Yesterday the Right Hon. the Lord Chancellor held the second General Seal at Lincoln's-Inn Hall before Trinity Term, when a Dispensation passed the Great Seal to enable the Rev. Dr. Huddistord, B. D. to hold the Rectory of Garnston in the County and Diocese of Oxford, together with the Rectory of Little Keeble in the County of Bucks and Diocese of Lincoln.

A Dispensation likewise passed the Seals, to enable the Rev. Mr. William Williams, M. A. Chaplain to the Right Hon. the Earl of Marchmont, to hold the Rectory of Byfleet in the County of Surrey and Diocese of Winchester, together with the Rectory of Ockham in the County and Diocese aforesaid.

Yesterday one John Wilford was committed to Tothillfields Bridewell by Col. De Veil, for assaulting Esther Priest, Servant to Mr. Hamlyn, a Pawnbroker in Drury-Lane, stabbing her in the Neck with a Knife, and wounding her Hands in a violent Manner with the same, whilst she was struggling with him to defend herself against his barbarous Attempt, which was first to have killed her, and then robbed the Shop.

And lately several Persons have been committed by the same Gentleman to hard Labour, for selling Spirituous Liquors in less Quantity than two Gallons.

BANKRUPT.

Charles Bishop, of Bowling-Alley, near Saffron-hill, in the County of Middlesex, Butcher.

High Water this Day at London Bridge.	Morning	Evening
	6 34	6 57

Bank Stock 147 1-half to 1-4th. India 181 5-8ths to 1-half. South Sea 103 5-8ths. Old Annuity 111 5-8ths. New ditto 113. Three per Cent. 106 7-8ths. Emperor's Loan 117 1-4th to 1-half. Royal Assurance 112 1-8th. London Assurance 14 7-8ths. African 14. New India Bonds 71 to 1 s. Prem. Old ditto 61. 18 s. to 19 s. Prem. South Sea ditto 41. 4 s. to 5 s. Prem. Bank Circulation 31. 2 s. 6 d. Premium. Salt Tallies 1 to 4 1-4th Prem. English Copper 21. 12 s. Welsh ditto 15 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 81. 5 s. per Cent. Premium. Three per Cent. ditto 3 7-8ths per Cent. Premium. Million Bank 121.

Just Published.

A COLLECTION of several TRACTS of the Right Hon. EDWARD Earl of CLARENDON, Author of the History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in ENGLAND, begun in the Year 1641, viz.

I. A Discourse by way of Vindication of himself from the Charge of High Treason, brought against him by the House of Commons.

II. Reflections upon several Christian Duties, Divine and Moral, by way of Essays. 1. Of Human Nature. 2. Of Life. 3. Of Reflections upon Happiness, which we may enjoy in and from ourselves. 4. Of impudent Delight in Wickedness. 5. Of Drunkenness. 6. Of Envy. 7. Of Pride. 8. Of Anger. 9. Of Patience in Adversity. 10. Of Contempt of Death, and the best Providing for it. 11. Of Friendship. 12. Of Counsel and Conversation. 13. Of Promises. 14. Of Liberty. 15. Of Industry. 16. Of Sickness. 17. Of Repentance. 18. Of Conscience. 19. Of an Active and a Contemplative Life; and when and why the one ought to be preferred to the other. 20. Of War. 21. Of Peace. 22. Of Sacrilege.

III. A Discourse of the Reverence due to Antiquity.

IV. A Discourse against the Multiplying Controversies, by insisting upon Particulars not necessary to the Point in Debate.

V. A Dialogue concerning the Want of Respect due to Age.

VI. A Dialogue concerning Education, &c.

VII. Contemplations and Reflections upon the Psalms of David. With Devotions applicable to the Troubles of the Times.

N. B. None of these Pieces were ever printed before, and the Original Manuscripts in his Lordship's Hand-writing be may be seen at T. Woodward's.

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